



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 November 1968

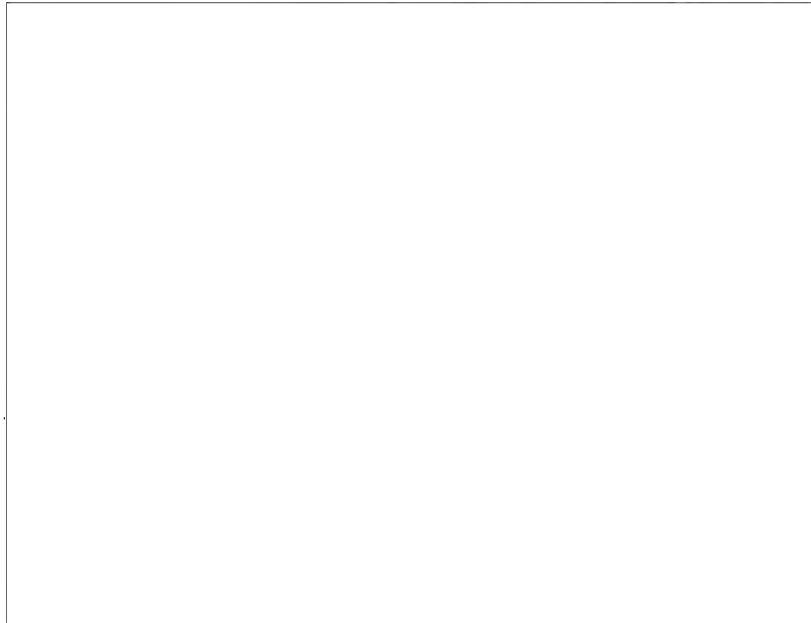


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

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The Vietnamese Communists are doing their best to exploit differences between the US and Saigon. Over the weekend, both the Front and Hanoi began inserting the word "unconditionally" in front of all references to the bombing halt.

The Front, in its first statement, has laid down five points which probably will represent its position in Paris. These points are a capsulated version of the Front political program and call for a US troop withdrawal, a coalition government, and new elections-- in that order. These are followed by demands for the neutrality of South Vietnam and gradual steps toward reunification.

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2. Jordan

Various terrorist acts, including Saturday's mob scene at our embassy, goaded Husayn into sending his army against some of the smaller terrorist groups early this morning. There was shooting in various parts of Amman, and a curfew is in effect.

The larger groups so far seem to have heeded Husayn's warning to stay out of trouble, but he has asked us to get word to the Israelis that some of the terrorists may try to create diversions along the cease-fire line.

3. Egypt

The Egyptians are still pretending that the damage from Thursday's Israeli raid is minimal,

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4. Czechoslovakia - Soviet Union

Signs of squabbling within the Czechoslovak party presidium are beginning to accumulate. Liberals are angry that Dubcek has failed to curb the conservatives, several members are at odds over a draft formulation of party tasks, and some are busy trying to fix the blame for the "mistakes" since last January. All this may force yet another postponement of the oft-scheduled Central Committee meeting.

We assume the Soviets hope that the bickering in the presidium, combined with the resurgence of the conservatives, will make Dubcek's position untenable.

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5. Australia

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Ambassador Crook comments that Gorton remains determined to reduce Australia's commitment in Malaysia unless he gets more backing from the US, and intends to concentrate more heavily on national problems in any case.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Ho Chi Minh Appeal: Yesterday Hanoi broadcast an appeal by Ho urging continued struggle in South Vietnam. Ho's message was close in tone and content to the official government statement made on Saturday.

Ho began by claiming the "unconditional" bombing halt was a "glorious victory" for the North. But it was only an "initial victory," he said. Ho followed this point with an exhortation to carry on the fight until final triumph was achieved. The message concluded with four demands:

--That the US end its "war of aggression against Vietnam";

--That all US and "satellite troops" be withdrawn from South Vietnam;

--That the internal affairs of South Vietnam be settled in accordance with the Front's program; and,

--That the question of reunification be settled by the Vietnamese, North and South, without interference.

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Peking Reports: There still has been no Chinese comment on the bombing halt. Saturday, however, Peking domestic service broadcast the verbatim text of the North Vietnamese statement.

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Hanoi Diplomat on Bombing Halt:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The diplomat stated that cessation

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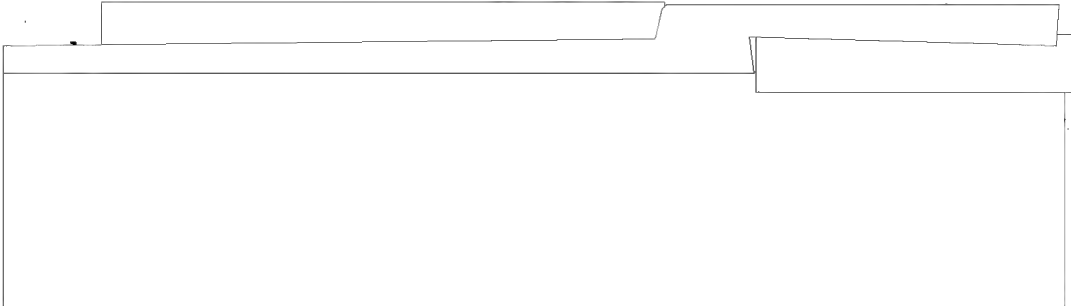
of the bombing would mean that the US respects the sovereignty of North Vietnam, but would not change the status of the US as "aggressors." The bombing halt should be followed by US recognition of the National Liberation Front, according to the diplomat. He claimed that a new offensive was in preparation and that the US would be forced to recognize the Front as the "legal" representative of the South Vietnamese people.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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